

Town of Brookline
Surveillance Technology and Military-Type Equipment Study Committee
Bernard Greene, Chair **Date:** July 16, 2020

Committee members present:

Bernard Greene, Chair
C. Scott Ananian
Sal D'Agostino
Sgt. Casey Hatchett
Susan Howards
Amy Hummel
Igor Muravyov (via telephone)
Feng Yang (Acting CIO for Brookline, designee for Kevin Stokes)

Non-committee members present:

Emiliano Falcon, ACLU
William Ganong

Committee members absent:

Lt. Paul Campbell

Committee member Ananian agreed to take minutes.

Discussion:

1. Deferred approving minutes from 2020-03-05 and 2020-05-14, 2020-06-11. Will resend with next meeting's agenda to ensure members review them before.
2. The Committee discussed D'Agostino's draft statement discussing the link between privacy and security.
 - a. Committee member Hummel has volunteered to perform editing for consistency of form and fonts
 - b. D'Agostino will add additional references to support the argument
 - c. Ananian suggested leading with the main points (for example, the final two sentences on the first page of the draft)
3. Discussed the draft report on Town use of UASI funds for police equipment.
 - a. Chair Greene suggested adding a photo of the John Deere and Chevy Tahoe
 - b. Ananian suggested adding specific details on the use of the equipment at the end of the first paragraph of pg 2, including the irobot, etc
 - c. Minor typo "UASI funding is determined based on an evaluation of the needs to the communities..." (Suggest replacing with "of".)
 - d. Ananian will follow up w/ a few specific issues
 - e. Another related issue is the role of mutual aid. Hatchett suggests looking at past examples of mutual aid. D'Agostino suggests how the resources are controlled and used are of equal interest. Ananian suggests focusing on equipment, Chair Greene replies that the broader issue is of general importance.

- f. A brief discussion of deployments in mutual aid, for example deployments of the bike unit to Boston. Member Hatchett disclosed she is slated to become a supervisor of the bike unit, and should soon have first-hand experience about the oversight of that unit during mutual aid deployments.
 - g. Hatchett relates that UASI expenditures are mostly for communications infrastructure and maritime funding.
 - h. Chair Greene was concerned that when you get federal grants there are grant conditions attached to them, and those conditions need to be transparent to the Town. Sometimes there are significant strings attached.
 - i. Hatchett mentioned JAG funding and perhaps COVID-related funds being affected by our Sanctuary City status. Ananian discussed foregrounding these issues, as the Town may be willing to make up missing funds as part of “putting money where its mouth is” wrt sanctuary policy.
- 4. Brief discussion of the relation to the “riot control” condition of appropriation
 - a. Chair Greene/member Hummel suggest that this committee may have a role defining “riot gear”
 - b. Chair Greene says he will place this on this committee’s agenda
 - c. Hatchett will pull together recommendations from BPD, email Chair Greene
 - d. Ananian will resent the list of specific equipment he presented at TM, email Chair Greene and member Hatchett
 - e. The actual passed language will also be sent around
- 5. Discussion of the App/Software evaluation spreadsheet
 - a. Chair Greene asked member Yang to report on how it could be used, who is the person reviewing software, what are the nuts and bolts
 - b. Yang will provide our cloud vendor security questionnaire
 - c. Yang: Our current process is to use the internal cloud vendor questionnaire, internally in IT we have a security team that reviews the results. In most cases when we ask vendors for answers to that questionnaire we have to sign a NDA because of security issues. We work with other departments, Legal, Procurement officer, etc to include language such as privacy language as part of the contract. Agree w/ member D’Agostino, this is a really good document, but in practice this will make the vetting process really long. Even with our very short questionnaire this takes a while to get responses from the vendor. Yang says we may want to reduce the length.
 - d. Chair Greene asks Yang to send a summary of this process, including how do you identify which software/apps are being acquired around Town, and how we go about evaluating software and a copy of the cloud vendor questionnaire for the report.
 - e. Hummel suggests we focus on best practices, and to press on that.
 - f. D’Agostino mentions the DreamBox privacy policy as a model, particularly for educational software. <https://www.dreambox.com/privacy-policy>
 - g. Chair Greene suggests a brief document or tool to help parents evaluate privacy policies. D’Agostino will collect some.

- h. Ananian suggests meeting with new interim superintendent to raise awareness of the surveillance committee's work.
- 6. Discussion of Facial Recognition report
 - a. Hummel suggests one issue is alerting folks to the potential that a software upgrade can add these capabilities unaware
 - b. Chair Greene suggests the risks of upgrades be added to the App/Software evaluation
 - c. Chair Greene asks for a footnote relating to the recent MA senate bill relating to facial recognition. Hummel mentions related Boston City Council language.
 - d. D'Agostino suggests "next steps" section is worth discussion

Follow up items (in addition to items assigned above):

- 1. Next meeting will be Thursday July 30 at 10:30am.